IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for the stabilization of the pharmaceutical active solid substance atorvastatin embedded in a gaseous mixture ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a drug in the form of tablets or capsules containing atorvastatin in an amount of 1 to 60 % by weight, packaged in a blister is stabilized and in the surrounding gaseous mixture a partial pressure of oxygen of at most 2 kPa is maintained.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the partial pressure of oxygen is maintained lower than 1 kPa.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the partial pressure of oxygen is maintained lower than 0.4 kPa.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~claims 1-3 characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein atorvastatin is in a mixture containing solid magnesium oxide in an amount of 0.1 to 50 % by weight.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein atorvastatin is predominantly in an amorphous form.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the blister is an aluminium blister of the Al-Al type.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the drug is packaged in a polypropylene blister, which is further enveloped in an Al-Al pouch.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the drug is packaged in a strip.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the said partial pressure is achieved by use of at least one oxygen absorber.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 9 ~~characterized in that~~, wherein the at least one oxygen absorber is selected from the group ~~including~~ consisting of a humidity-activated oxygen absorber, a self-activating absorber, an ultraviolet-radiation-activated absorber, a radiation-activated absorber, a microwaves-activated absorber, an absorber activated by a combination of activation processes~~, or~~ and an absorber without necessity of activation.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 10 ~~characterized in that~~, wherein the oxygen absorber is a self-activating absorber.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any of claims 1-8 characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the said partial pressure of oxygen is achieved by use of excess of an inert gas.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any of claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the said partial pressure of oxygen is achieved by packaging in a blister-forming machine, by introducing a stream of an inert gas, ~~preferably~~ which may be nitrogen, into cavities in the lower shaped sheet with such intensity that the content of the gas in the cavity exchanges at least once~~, preferably three times~~.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the flow rate of the stream of the inert gas ranges from 180 to 3000 l/h.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 14, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the flow rate of the stream of the inert gas ranges from 500 to 1500 l/h.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any of claims 13-15 characterized in that the~~ claim 13, wherein a band with shaped cavities is brought into a purging chamber, consisting of a set of nozzles, destined for targeted introduction of the inert gas to the cavities, and of diversion channels for the washed-out air outlet, the purging chamber being located in a box having permanently inert atmosphere, wherein, subsequently, an upper covering band is pressed against said band with the cavities and, finally, the blister is welded together.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim ~~13 characterized in that~~ 16, wherein the flow rate of the inert gas into the purging chamber is maintained at 1300 – 1500 l/h.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~any of claims 1-8 characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the said partial pressure of oxygen is achieved by packaging under a pressure of 0.3 to 10 kPa.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition in a pharmaceutically suitable packing comprising a blister, ~~obtainable~~ obtained according to claim 17, surrounded with a gaseous mixture constituted by the inert gas fed during the packaging, ~~characterized by~~ with a partial pressure of oxygen lower than 1 kPa.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19, ~~characterized by~~ with a partial pressure of oxygen lower than 0.4 kPa.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition obtained by [[a]] the method of ~~any of claims 1-18 characterized in that it is constituted by~~ claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises 3 - 20 % by weight of atorvastatin, 5 - 30 % by weight of magnesium oxide, 5 - 30 % by weight of lactose, and 20 - 80 % by weight of microcrystalline cellulose.